

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0068 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 12 illustrates an exemplary configuration of a router system 1200 in which two virtual routers (VR1 and VR2) 630 share switching fabric bandwidth in an implementation consistent with the present invention. It is assumed with respect to Fig. 12 that the virtual routers 630 do not share port bandwidth, control resources (i.e., the virtual routers 630 use different memories for storing the routing and forwarding tables), routing processes, or forwarding processes. It will be appreciated that this scenario is exemplary and other scenarios in which the virtual routers 630 share resources (data resources, control resources, routing processes, and forwarding processes) are also possible, as described in copending, commonly assigned, U.S. Patent Application No. _____ [Attorney Docket No. ASH-01-004] 10/084,917, filed _____ March 1, 2002, and entitled, "Resource Allocation in Virtual Routers," the contents of which are incorporated in their entirety herein.